

THE WOLF STALKER

A Tale of the Old New England Frontier.

By G. WALDO BROWNE.

COPYRIGHTED, 1902, BY GEORGE WALDO BROWNE.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE WOLF STALKER IS A NEW ROLE.

Amid the mixed impressions and the confused struggle to be intoxicated by the followers of Bigot, he whom we have known as St. Aubyn made a hasty exit, uttering no speech until he reached the outer door, and then, as he felt the cool air of the mountains brush his brow, he exclaimed:

"It is a blessing to wash one's lungs with the pure breath of the open air, after being so long in that dense atmosphere. I wonder if all is well," when he gave forth the cry of the bird which had reached him when he had stood at the head of the Intendant's table.

He did not have to wait long for an answer, and this was swiftly followed by the sight of a tall, well-known figure stepping from behind the hedge, saying:

"Now, my lad, I was getting a heavy rest some misadventure had criss-crossed your trail."

"I had no trouble, Forester. But, tell me, how has it fared with you? Has Mary been saved?"

"Ay, lad, it is pleasant to say she has. The dusky girl followed the trail like a fox running to its den. I considered it discreet to keep an eye on him, but there was no need of it. They were waiting for us on the old fort, and if I read the sign clear the lass be impatient waiting for you. I judge it will be well for us to get away from here."

Great excitement was reigning within Beaumanoir, and lights were already seen moving about. This, if no other reason, should cause the twin to leave the scene as rapidly as possible. But one of the men, at least, had other motives, and he was the younger of the party, who was none other than Edna Harwood, who had been disguised as St. Aubyn, and had fairly outwitted the cunning Bigot, and had turned him back in his actions, while the Forester and another had rescued the captives by the way of the secret passage running from the old fort to the chateau.

A minute later the two came into sight of three persons standing in the shadows of the ruined fortalice, two of them recognized by their dress as women, and the third, as plainly indicated by his garb, as an Indian. As our twin approached one of the women, who was none other than Mary Shepley, came forward with outstretched arms to meet them, saying:

"Oh, Edna! what a relief to see you! It is darling, and this is the happiest moment of my life," enfolding her in his embrace as he spoke.

"It is indeed a joy," she murmured, and in the ecstasy of her joy, she forgot the lovers' unkindly of their companions, pressed on each other's lips that seal of human passion, love's kiss. How long they might have remained thus, lost to all else save their own bliss, it is uncertain, had not the Forester said:

"I never want to be wanted in the waste of discretion, seeing your hearts are made for each other. I am going to leave this trail if I am to follow any other that shall be away from the innery."

"You are right, Forester, and you must forgive me if I forgot our true situation in my great joy. Nothing was said by me in the big building, and if Bigot's men are too drunk to give us chase, there may be others to cause us trouble if we do not improve our opportunity to reach some other place."

"It may be best for us to steer up the country as the river runs. Mebbe the red here can lead us out o' this amazement, seeing he is better versed in the trails hereabouts than we are."

The Indian being thus directly appealed to replied:

"Merru-Maqua knows the path that will take the whites to the river, above Quebec, if you can trust me so far."

"Trust me for that," declared Mary, to which Marie, who had been rescued with her, gave a hearty assent. So, without longer delay, the young chief of Sagaree led the little party of fugitives away from the gloomy chateau, whose walls were beginning to echo to the cries of the surprised occupants.

The course chosen by the young chief left the party leading from Charlebourg to the chateau of Beaumanoir a short distance from the grounds of that retreat, and it led through the forest in a north-westerly direction, the fugitives following as closely as possible upon the heels of the light-footed guide. Edna Harwood lent much assistance to the young chief, while the Forester assisted Marie whenever she found it difficult to keep up with the others. But the way was at places difficult of passage, so their progress was often tedious.

It must have been past midnight when they had left Beaumanoir, and a faint streak of daylight was tinging the morning sky when the gaze of the fugitives was gladdened by a gleam of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"The river," said Merru-Maqua, simply, and a minute later the noble waterway burst into full view.

"Aweel, now, me," said the Forester. "I never prevaricate the truth when I affirm that nothing would gladden these eyes more than the sight o' a sizable canoe; now just big enough to carry five or six."

Making no reply to this speech, which echoed the thoughts in the minds of the others, Merru-Maqua stooped beside the overhanging fringe of bushes, and giving a gentle push sent a canoe of water, seen through the tree-tops ahead.

"I should advise you to take a short cut, too, for there may be work ahead."

"I realize it, Forester. But while you have time to spare, I want you to tell us something of what you have undergone."

"It is past now, and there will be time for that later. First, I want you to explain how you came in that strange suit, and I am sure your skin is stained with something besides sun-spots."

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

successful in every particular. I needn't tell you what an anxious period it has been to me, or how much I owe to our mutual friend."

"In order to put you on your guard, and understand that you had friends looking after you, the chief planned to give you a token he had in his possession, hoping you would recognize it. I think he was successful in that."

Before she could reply, or ask the question that was now agitating her mind, both the Forester and Merru-Maqua stopped their paddling, while the attention of both was fixed upon some object on the bank. The first had exchanged his paddle for his gun, and thinking they had been discovered by their enemies, Edna Harwood glanced nervously in the direction indicated by the looks of his companions.

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.

The grim object was nothing less than that wild, uncouth, uncanny being, half

The day had so far advanced that it was light enough on the river to distinguish an object plainly at considerable distance. As the canoe had been kept in

near to the left bank, the slight which greeted their eyes was plainly seen by all. Both of the girls, in spite of their attempts to remain calm, uttered low

cries of dismay at the weird apparition which met their gaze in the distance.